

# Philippians

*small group study*

[week three]

## [Philippians 1:27-30]

*Read the passage several times, and make observations:*

Note any striking words or phrases. Note the relationships between the words and phrases. Pay attention to the prepositions (e.g., in, on, with, etc.) and conjunctions (e.g., and, but, because, therefore, etc.). *How does the passage hold together? What is the flow of thought? What is the main point?*

*Reflect on the following questions:*

Paul uses the language of living *worthy* (Read his other uses: Rom 16:2; Eph 4:1; Phil 1:27; Col 1:10; 1 Thess 2:12). How does one judge something worthy or unworthy?

What kind of news does Paul want to hear about the character of the Philippians' lives?

Paul says that their unity, common mission, and courage in the face of opposition will be a *sign to them [those who oppose them] that they will be destroyed, but that you [the Philippians] will be saved* (v. 28). What does this mean? Is this implying that Christian witness and faithfulness is as much about leaving the world *without excuse* (Rom 1:20) as seeing it saved?

*So what? Reflect on what this means for our identity and practice:*

Is unity of mind and mission with your Christian brothers and sisters important to you? Should it be? What should it look like?

Does the significance of suffering and opposition language here [as in so much of Scripture] ever cause conflict for you in light of the relative ease of our Christian existence? Should it?

*Discuss specific things we should concentrate on in the coming week.*